

**CLAIMS AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with a compound comprising the general formula  $L\{YX_m\}_n$  wherein:

L is a Schiff base-containing ligand;

Y is selected from the group consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium;

X is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine; and

m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein L is a salen ligand.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein L is a bidentate ligand.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein L is a quadridentate ligand.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein L is selected from the group

consisting of Salen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salpen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salben (<sup>t</sup>Bu), and Salhen (<sup>t</sup>Bu).

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein Y is boron or aluminum.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein m and n are 2.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A catalytic method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with the compound of claim 2 in the presence of BBr<sub>3</sub>.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the phosphate ester or ether and BBr<sub>3</sub> are added in equimolar amounts.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the dealkylation is conducted at ambient temperature.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A catalytic method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or

an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with a compound comprising the general formula  $L\{YX_m\}_n$  wherein:

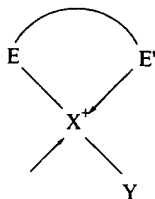
Y is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium;

X is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine;

L is a chelating ligand containing at least two molecules E and E' contacting the Group 13 element, the molecules E and E' being selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S; and

m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein the compound generates a cationic intermediate upon contacting the phosphate ester or ether, the cationic intermediate having the general formula:



Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein L is a Schiff base-

containing ligand.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein L is a salen ligand.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein L is a bidentate ligand.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein L is a quadridentate ligand.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salpen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salben (<sup>t</sup>Bu), and Salhen (<sup>t</sup>Bu).

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein Y is boron or aluminum.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein m and n are 2.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of BBr<sub>3</sub>.

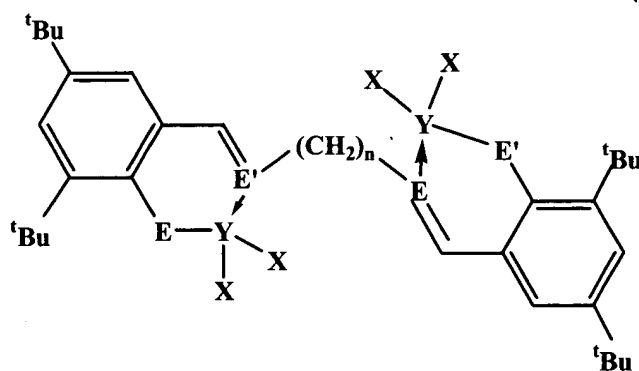
Claim 32 (withdrawn): The method of claim 31, wherein the phosphate ester or ether

and  $\text{BBr}_3$  are added in equimolar amounts.

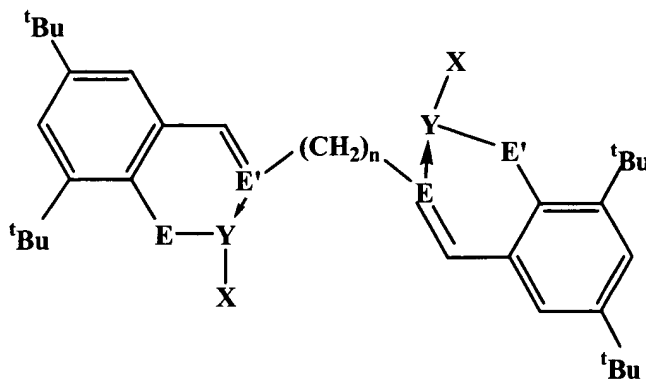
Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein the dealkylation is conducted at ambient temperature.

Claim 34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (currently amended): A chemical compound having comprising a chelating ligand L, ~~the compound having of~~ the general formula:



or



wherein Y is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium, ~~and any combination thereof~~, X is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine, ~~and any combination thereof~~, E and E' are selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S, ~~and any combination thereof~~, and n is an integer having a value of at least 1.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The chemical compound of claim 35, wherein L is selected from the group consisting of Salen ('Bu), Salpen ('Bu), Salben ('Bu), and Salhen ('Bu).

Claim 37 (previously presented): The chemical compound of claim 35, wherein Y is boron or aluminum.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The chemical compound of claim 35, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The chemical compound of claim 35, wherein n is 2.

Claim 40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with the chemical compound of claim ~~36~~ 35.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 41, wherein:

L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salpen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salben (<sup>t</sup>Bu), and Salhen (<sup>t</sup>Bu);

Y is boron or aluminum;

X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine; and

n is 2.

Claim 43 (canceled).

Claim 44 (previously presented): A catalytic method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with the chemical compound of claim 35 in the presence of BBr<sub>3</sub>.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein:

L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salpen (<sup>t</sup>Bu), Salben (<sup>t</sup>Bu), and Salhen (<sup>t</sup>Bu);

Y is boron or aluminum;

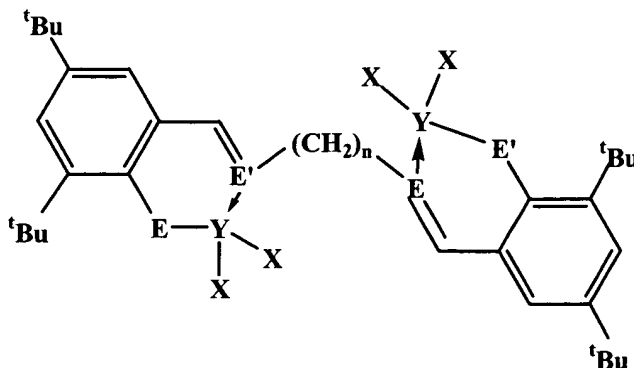
X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine; and

n is 2.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of claim 44, wherein the phosphate ester or ether and BBr<sub>3</sub> are ~~added~~ present in equimolar amounts.

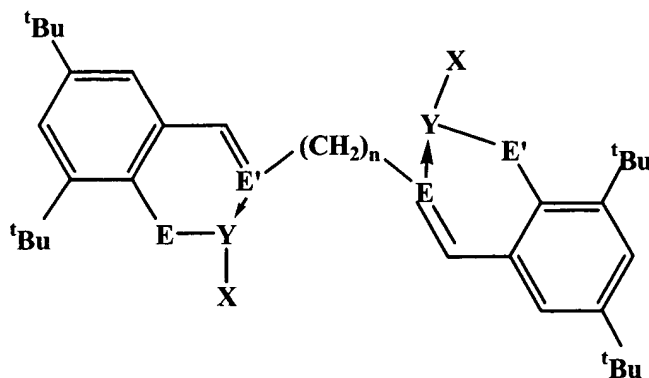
Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the dealkylation is conducted at ambient temperature.

Claim 48 (new): A composition comprising a chelating ligand L, the ligand having the general formula:



or





wherein  $Y$  is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium,  $X$  is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine,  $E$  and  $E'$  are selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S, and  $n$  is an integer having a value of at least 1.